

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 PER-05 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /163 W
----- 062698

R 030648Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5637

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4853

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PING PFOR MPOS EAID CB

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT LON NOL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ON APRIL 3 I PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT LON NOL.
IN COURSE OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION FOLLOWING CEREMONY I
MADE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS WITH KHMER CHIEF OF STATE:

(A) UNLIKE OTHER POSTS I COULD NOT CONFINE CONVERSA-
TION TO SOCIAL AMENITIES. MILITARY SITUATION
IN KHMER REPUBLIC REQUIRED MY RAISING SUBSTANTIVE
MATTERS AT WHAT IS OTHERWISE TRADITIONAL CEREMONY.
SPECIFICALLY, I MENTIONED THAT DATT COLONEL
BURNELL HAD RETURNED YESTERDAY FROM BESIEGED
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KAMPOT ON GULF OF SIAM
AND HAD NOTED DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION.
THE FRIENDLY FORCES THERE HAD WITHDRAWN
ABOUT ONE KILOMETER ON THE WESTERN FLANK
THEREBY REDUCING THE AREA HELD BY FANK TO
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A DANGEROUSLY SMALL ENCLAVE. FANK HAD NO

ROOM LEFT TO WITHDRAW FURTHER AND HAD TO STAND NOW IF FANK WAS NOT TO LOSE THIS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. LOSS OF KAMPOT AFTER LOSING OUDONG LAST WEEK COULD BE INTERPRETED BY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AS SIGNIFICANT KC SUCCESSES AND EVIDENCE OF FANK'S INABILITY TO STNAD AGAINST ENEMY ATTACK. I NOTED ACTIONS TAKEN BY FANK AND KHMER AIR FORCE YESTERDAY TO IMPROVE MILITARY SITUATION IN KAMPOT FIRST BY SENDING ADDITIONAL TROOPS INTO KAMPOT AND SECONDLY BY KAF PROVIDING AC-47 COVERAGE AT NIGHT. FANK'S TASK IS NOW TO CONTINUE REINFORCING GARRISON AND PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AIR SUPPORT SO THAT THE FANK DEFENDERS CAN WITHSTAND FURTHER ENEMY PRESSURES. LON NOL TOOK NOTE OF MY PRESENTATION AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. THE PRESIDENT IS NOT A PARTICULARLY ARTICULATE PERSON BUT I GATHERED FROM HIS RAMBLINGS THAT FANK WOULD TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO STRENGTHEN KAMPOT WITHOUT DELAY.

(B) I THEN RAISED WITH LON NOL THE NEED FOR CAMBODIANS TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT IN EVERY FIELD OF ENDEAVOR -- MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE -- TO CONVINCE U.S. THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE FULL SUPPORT THAT PHNOM PENH IS PRESENTLY GETTING TO WITHSTAND COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. I SAID THAT WE WERE -IN THE SAME BOAT" AND TO THE EXTEND THAT WE CAN SHOW TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THAT THE KHMERS ARE DOING THEIR BEST, IT WOULD FACILITATE OUR TASK OF JUSTIFYING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR KHMER CAUSE. LON NOL REPLIED THAT HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR KHMERS TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF CONTINUING U.S. ASSISTANCE AND IN THIS CONNECTION EXPRESSED DEEP GRATITUDE FOR STAUNCH SUPPORT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED FROM THE U.S.

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(C) DISCUSSION OF POINT (B) PERMITTED ME TO MAKE SOME COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS ABOUT THE EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR UM SIM IN THE U.S. LON NOL WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT HIS AMBASSADOR WAS AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON.

2. I HAVE BEEN IN PHNOM PENH ONLY 72 HOURS BUT FIND

THAT PRESSING OPERATIONAL NEEDS HARDLY GIVE ME TIME TO
UNPACK BEFORE DEALING WITH THE NEXT CRISIS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, AMBASSADORS, MILITARY PLANS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM04853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0437
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740469/aaaackxr.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT LON NOL CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005